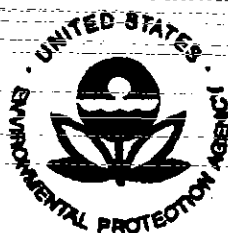


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WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY



Hanford's Hazardous Waste Permit

The complex process of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons, begun at Hanford in 1943, has left a legacy of radiological and chemical contamination which will require decades to bring to a safe condition.

In 1989, the state of Washington and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entered into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy called *The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* which governs how the Hanford Site will be managed and cleaned up. The accord, commonly known as the Tri-Party Agreement, requires the Department of Energy to obtain a Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Permit, referred to as the Hanford Facility Wide Permit.

The Tri-Party Agreement and its amendments provide a schedule for the whole Hanford cleanup. The RCRA Facility Wide Permit gives detailed instructions to the Department of Energy (USDOE) regarding management of hazardous waste and cleanup actions not completely defined within the Tri-Party Agreement.

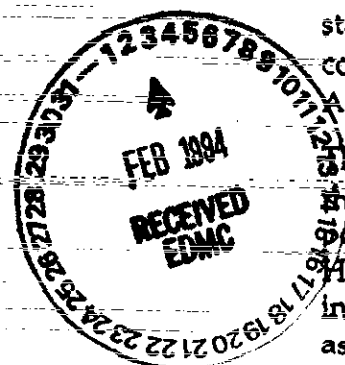
The first draft of a Facility Wide Permit was circulated for public review early in 1992. Comments from citizens, site contractors, and the Department of Energy led to several major modifications. A second draft Facility Wide Permit is available for public comment from February 9 through April 11, 1994. There will be public hearings in the Tri-Cities March 29, Vancouver March 30 and Seattle March 31.

What the permit contains

Currently, there are more than 60 treatment, storage or disposal units operating at the Hanford Site on an interim permit basis. These units include tank systems, surface impoundments, container storage areas, waste piles, landfills, and miscellaneous units. Present plans call for operating permits for 24 of these units and closure of 34 units. Six waste management units will be handled through other regulatory options.

The Facility Wide Permit contains two permits: requirements for operation of the facility and standards for management under the base RCRA program, and the corrective action conditions for the cleanup of hazardous waste under the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to RCRA.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) will issue the operating portion of the permit. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will issue the corrective action portion, because Ecology has not yet been delegated authority by the EPA to implement HSWA in Washington State. When full authorization is received, and it is expected sometime in 1994, the two permits will be merged into one. The Department of Ecology will then assume responsibility for both sections.



It is planned that chapters will be added to the Facility Wide Permit for specific treatment, storage and disposal (TSD) units. As each unit either closes, or receives a final operating permit, those units will be added to the facility wide permit. Once all units are included, the facility wide permit will be complete. The facility wide permit strategy will help ensure the regulatory agencies, Ecology and EPA, maintain consistent overall requirements throughout the Hanford Site, while retaining the flexibility to address unit-specific concerns.

Draft Permit Changes

Based on public meetings and comments in the first three months of 1992, the significant changes in the second draft include:

- Five Hanford units are proposed for inclusion under the Facility Wide Permit, three for final closure and two seeking authorization to store hazardous waste.
- The 1992 draft RCRA permit for a Hanford Waste Vitrification Plant has been dropped. Waste vitrification is addressed in the latest amendments to the Tri-Party Agreement, and specific chapters will be added to the permit in the future, subject to public comment.
- A streamlined administrative process has been included in which facility wide plans have been replaced with facility wide requirements for operation.

Unit Facility Permits and Closure Plans

In this draft of the permit, proposed chapters would authorize operation, or closure, at five Hanford units:

- A. 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins. The plan would allow final closure of four solar evaporation basins in the 100-H Area. The basins, which last received dangerous waste shipments in 1985, stored and treated radioactive mixed wastes generated at the 300 Area fuel-fabrication facilities. The basins are to be demolished, and their contaminated soils are to be removed from the site, or buried and capped in place.
- B. 616 Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility. Located in the 600 Area between the 200 East and 200 West areas, the facility stores nonradioactive dangerous wastes, which are shipped to off-site commercial treatment and disposal facilities. The requested permit would define the unit's operating parameters.
- C. 2727-S Nonradioactive Dangerous Waste Storage Facility. Located in the southeast portion of the 200 West Area, the facility had stored nonradioactive dangerous wastes generated in the research and development laboratories, process operations, and maintenance and transportation functions on the Hanford Site. It was demolished in 1992 and is proposed for final closure.
- D. 300 Area Solvent Evaporator. This facility is an inactive unit proposed for final closure. It was operated as an evaporation treatment unit for dangerous wastes and was demolished in 1986.
- E. 305-B Mixed Waste Storage Facility. The facility is a storage unit for dangerous and radioactive mixed wastes generated by research and development operations in the 300 Area. Wastes are brought to the facility for storage, repackaging, and/or consolidation. The proposed permit will set forth the facility's operating parameters.

Units A through D are managed by the Westinghouse Hanford Company, Unit E is managed by Battelle-Pacific Northwest Laboratories.



How can you be involved?

The 60-day public comment begins February 9 and ends April 11, 1994. Copies of the draft permit, attachments, fact sheet, application, index to the administrative record, comments and responsiveness summary, and maps showing exact locations of activities, are available for review at these Hanford Public Information Repositories:

Spokane
Gonzaga University
Poley Center
E. 502 Boone
Attn: Lewis Miller
(509) 328-4220 ext. 3125

Seattle
University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
Attn: Eleanor Chaw
(206) 543-4664

Richland
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
U.S. Dept. of Energy Reading Rm., Rm. 130
100 Sprout Road
Attn: Terri Traub
(509) 376-8583

Portland
Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineering Floor
Attn: Michael Bowman
SW Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690

All information in the repositories, plus the administrative record, including all data submitted by the applicants, may be reviewed by appointment at the following administrative record locations:

Seattle
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Hazardous Waste Division
1200 Sixth Avenue
Diane Richardson (206) 553-1253
Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Lacey
Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear & Mixed Waste Management Program
300 Deamond Drive
Marilyn Smith (206) 407-7097
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.

Richland
Westinghouse Hanford Company
2440 Stevens Center, Suite 1101
Lee Michael (509) 376-2530
Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-noon, 1-3:30 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period to either the Environmental Protection Agency, or the Department of Ecology. All who comment will receive responses explaining how and why those comments were, or were not, used. Please mail comments to:

Dan Duncan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 (HW-106)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

or
Joe Witczak
Nuclear and Mixed Waste Management Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Public Hearings

Three hearings have been scheduled March 29-31 in Tri-Cities, Vancouver and Seattle to receive public comments. The meeting dates and locations are:

Pasco	Tuesday, March 29 7-9 p.m.	Columbia Basin Community College, 2600 N. 20th Ave., Library Building
Vancouver	Wednesday, March 30 7-9 p.m.	Clark County PUD 1200 Fort Vancouver Way Electric Center Office,
Seattle	Thursday, March 31 7-9 p.m.	Seattle Center, Center House Conference Room G

All public comments will be considered in making the final decision on this permit. Those who comment will receive responses explaining how and why their comments were, or were not, used. The permit and a summary of responses to comments will be issued no sooner than June 10, 1994.

For more information, contact Dan Duncan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (206) 553-6693; Joe Witezak, Department of Ecology, (206) 407-7132; or Hanford Cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.

If you have special accommodation needs, please contact Michelle Davis, Department of Ecology, (206) 407-7126 (voice) or (206) 407-7155 TDD (telecommunications device for the deaf).